

**KING COUNTY
BRIGHTWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2002 Committee Work Plan

April 5, 2002

❑ **Overview**

In 2000, King County began the process of selecting a site for a new wastewater facility called Brightwater. An advisory committee for the project began work in June of that year. To date the committee has assisted in the development of the siting criteria, and has provided comments and recommendations on the overall siting process. Committee members are jointly appointed by King County Executive Ron Sims and Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel.

This Executive Advisory Committee will continue its work throughout 2002, meeting approximately five times to review and comment on a number of broad policy questions and issues associated with the Brightwater project.

The committee's work is fully in line with the overall project goals for Brightwater, which are attached to this work plan.

❑ **The Mission of the Committee**

Executive Advisory Committee members are expected to bring a big-picture, regional perspective to the table. The new wastewater treatment facilities will serve the region for generations to come, and final siting decisions must incorporate the interests and perspectives of the region's many stakeholders.

In 2002, the committee will focus on broad regional issues and questions regarding Brightwater. The committee will help to develop policy questions for the Executives to consider during their deliberations on technological, environmental, and regional considerations. The committee will discuss and make recommendations on these issues throughout their 2002 meetings. In addition, the committee will review and comment on the effectiveness of King County's public involvement program throughout the siting process.

It is important to note that the committee will not be recommending one site over another as the Brightwater selection process draws to a close. Rather, the committee will be focused on broader policy issues and questions related to the Brightwater facilities, regardless of where they are ultimately located.

Committee members can also play an instrumental role in serving as links between King County and the jurisdictions and interest groups they represent. It is expected that they will

brief their organizations on the siting process underway, and share comments/perspectives from those groups as appropriate throughout the process.

❑ **Committee Process**

The Brightwater Executive Advisory Committee will work in an environment of collaborative discussion.

Although consensus is always the desired outcome of any committee process, it is recognized that not all members are likely to reach full agreement on every issue. Recommendations to the Executives may include minority opinions and explanations of the rationale behind specific suggestions.

The meeting format and agendas have been developed in a way that facilitates full discussion of the issues. Both the overall committee process, as well as each meeting, will have clear goals and objectives. The committee will be supported by a number of staff, and will be able to use these resources as appropriate and required.

The committee will be facilitated by Margaret Norton-Arnold. Margaret will serve as a neutral, third-party facilitator, and will work on behalf of the committee.

All committee members work on an equal basis. There are no elected leaders or subcommittees of the Executive Advisory Committee.

❑ **Committee Groundrules**

The Committee will operate according to following:

- 1) Members are expected to wear their “regional” hats to the meetings. It is recognized that many committee members represent local jurisdictions that may have a particular stake in the siting process, and it can be difficult to participate in committee discussions on a regional level in light of these local perspectives. Nonetheless, it is most helpful to the committee process if each member responds appropriately to those local concerns when they are involved in forums at the local level. The Executive Advisory Committee is meant to serve as a regional forum.
- 2) It is recognized that all committee members are in positions of public visibility and that they are likely to be contacted by the media or other interest groups to discuss committee deliberations. King County staff are available to assist with media talking points or other helpful tools should committee members want this assistance. On some occasions it is helpful for a single individual to represent the committee’s viewpoints, for example at King County Council hearings. In these situations, the committee will designate one member to represent their opinions and perspectives.
- 3) Each committee meeting will include two ten-minute public comment periods: one at the beginning, and one at the end of the meeting. Members of the public who wish to address the committee during these comment periods are asked to abide by the following ground rules:

- Presentations are limited to three minutes per speaker.
- Only three speakers are allowed to address the committee on the same topic or viewpoint.
- Speakers are asked to limit their comments to the topics that are within the committee's purview. Those topics are outlined in this work plan.

❑ **Meeting Format**

While agendas will be created for each committee meeting, all of the meetings will be structured around a consistent format, which will include:

Information and Presentations. King County will provide information to the committee on a regular basis. It is anticipated that most meetings will include some kind of presentation from King County.

Committee Discussion. Prior to any recommendations from the committee, two discussion periods will be held if necessary. A "preliminary committee discussion" will take place immediately following all staff presentations. This will be followed by a more substantive discussion at the following EAC meeting, should the committee want more time in their deliberations.

Committee Actions. Committee opinions will be regularly reviewed and summarized. At key points in the process, the committee may determine that it wants to develop a specific "recommendation" to Executives Sims and Drewel. At other points, it may be more appropriate to create a committee "report card" that is not a specific recommendation, but a summary of committee opinions on a given issue. The committee will determine, together, how it wants to frame its work products. No final recommendations or other actions will be taken, however, until committee members have: a) heard a presentation of the issues; b) been provided an opportunity to fully discuss and debate the issues; and c) had time to reflect on any decisions they may want to make as a group.

Periodic Evaluations. The facilitator will periodically poll members to evaluate their overall satisfaction with the committee process, including agendas, discussion, and outcomes.

❑ **Anticipated Meeting Schedule**

Meeting One: Thursday, March 21

- This meeting will be used to bring all members up to speed on the analysis underway on the treatment plant, conveyance pipes and outfall, the schedule for the EIS, anticipated decisions and project milestones.
- The EAC will review the 2002-2003 public involvement program in advance of the meeting, and to come with their suggestions and comments related to the program. The

EAC will provide regular feedback and advice on this program throughout the siting process.

- The major agenda item for the meeting will be a brainstorming session on the regional policy questions the EAC believes need to be answered throughout the remainder of the decision process. Members will discuss these regional issues and will list their ideas related to environmental, cost, mitigation, design, and other issues. This list of questions will continue to be examined throughout the year.
- The March meeting will also include an introduction to the study issues the EAC will be considering. Throughout 2002, the EAC will be learning more about these issues and making recommendations on them.

Meeting Two: Thursday, April 11

- The meeting will begin with an update and discussion on public involvement activities.
- The list of questions the EAC created in March will be reviewed, with King County responses on when those questions will be addressed by the committee during 2002.
- The study issues for this meeting will include the conveyance system and outfall issues. Members will be asked to share their opinions and perspectives on these issues with King County.

Meeting Three: Thursday, July 11

- The meeting will begin with an update and discussion on public involvement activities.
- The study issues for this meeting will include odor control and disinfection. The EAC had a lengthy discussion on odor control technology in 2001. This will be an opportunity to discuss odor control policy. Likewise, the committee will learn about disinfection technologies and the policy considerations they present. Members will be asked to share their opinions and perspectives on these issues with King County.
- King County will also explain their rationale for not choosing a Design-Build-Operate model for the Brightwater project, which the committee has posed as a question. In addition, members of the Brightwater team will make presentations on land use issues and on the regulatory drivers governing the Brightwater site selection process.

Meeting Four: Thursday, September 12

- The meeting will begin with the public involvement activities update and committee discussion on those activities.

- The study issues for September will focus on design issues. This will include alternative technologies under consideration, plant aesthetics, as well as the design flexibility that will be used to allow for both new regulatory requirements and possible plant expansion.

Meeting Five: Thursday, October 10

- The meeting will begin with the public involvement activities update and committee discussion on these activities.
- The study issue for this meeting will be reclaimed water, including available technologies, markets, cost, pricing, and distribution.

Meeting Six: Thursday, November 14 (likely an all-day meeting)

- The Draft EIS will have been issued, and executive summaries of the document will be provided to all EAC members.
- Members will be asked for their feedback on the overall public involvement and outreach programs underway.
- This meeting will focus on the information in the DEIS. Topics of particular interest to the committee have included impacts of the plant on surrounding residents, impacts during construction, sustainable building practices, issues of cost, stormwater management, and the potential for wetlands/habitat enhancement. All of these issues will be analyzed in the DEIS.

Meeting Seven: Thursday, December 12

- This meeting will be held as needed; the two County Executives may attend this meeting to hear the committee's findings first hand.

❑ **Brightwater Project Goals**

These goals were developed in the year 2000 and serve to guide the Brightwater project in all of its siting activities.

Environment / Public Health Goals

- **Preserve and Enhance the Natural Environment** – Preserve and enhance the natural environment at both the regional and local level. Avoid or minimize impacts to the natural environment.
- **Remain Consistent with Comprehensive Plans** – Remain consistent with the King County and Snohomish County Comprehensive Plans and the State Growth Management Act.
- **Protect Air and Water Quality** – Design the wastewater system to preserve and enhance air quality and water quality.
- **Protect Public Health** – Design the wastewater system to protect public health.

Technical Goals

- **Assure Efficient and Reliable Treatment** – Develop a wastewater treatment, conveyance and disposal system that is efficient and reliable.
- **Use Existing Public Facilities and Land** – Maximize existing public investment by maximizing the use of existing wastewater facilities and properties.
- **Meet the Schedule** – Select a preferred location for the new North Treatment Facilities by December 2002 and ensure that the facilities are operational by 2010.
- **Balance Risk, Flexibility and Long-Term Cost** – Balance cost with the risk of uncertainty and the flexibility to respond to changes in growth projections, technology and regulations.
- **Meet Regulations** – Ensure the wastewater system is designed and constructed to meet regulatory requirements.

Sustainability Goals

- **Encourage Reuse** – Strive to achieve beneficial reuse from the byproducts of the wastewater process, including recycled water, biosolids and methane.
- **Use Recycled Materials in Construction** – Design the north treatment facility utilizing the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design Rating program Criteria. Strive to achieve the program's silver rating.

Financial Goals

- **Maintain Reasonable Rates** – To minimize impacts on ratepayers and provide reasonable equity, design the wastewater system so that rates remain within projections developed in the RWSP.
- **Maintain the Budget** – Keep costs within budget.
- **Save Costs** – Look for ways to save or share costs.
- **Achieve Reasonable Lifetime Costs** – Achieve reasonable lifetime costs considering capital costs, operations and maintenance, and staffing.

Community Goals

- **Create a Public Amenity** – Create facilities that enhance the quality of life in the local community and minimize impacts to the social environment.
- **Seek Partnerships** – Seek partnerships with other public and private entities to maximize mutual benefit.
- **Site Facilities Equitably** – Strive to site essential public facilities equitably. Ensure that no racial, cultural or class group is disproportionately impacted by essential public facility siting or expansion decisions.